

Jesus is in the Press with Us!!

Recently, as I was reading through the gospel of Mark, I came to the story of the woman with the issue of blood and was moved in a fresh way regarding this story. I think it's so important that as we are reading the Scriptures to remember that there was a day in history, on a dusty city street, where this story really played out. There was a real crowd clamoring and pushing to get to Jesus. There was a real woman, who was weak from an extended illness and her hope was weaker still having experienced failed attempt after failed attempt to get help. There have been times in my life when I can personally relate to this story on so many levels. More than anything I want to encourage us that Jesus is in the "press" with us. Whatever it is, no matter how long it's been going on, no matter how impossible it looks that things will get better or that circumstances will change – Jesus is in the "press" with us!

Let's take a look at this day in the life of Jesus with fresh eyes, allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to us in a fresh way.

♥ **"Now, in the crowd that day was a woman who had suffered horribly from continual bleeding for twelve years. She had endured a great deal under the care of various doctors, yet in spite of spending all she had on their treatments, she was not getting better, but worse.**

1. The first thing I want us to recognize is that God is in the details. Our abridged version of this story might be: "a woman is sick for a long time and Jesus heals her." But the Holy Spirit takes time to give us details about her life. God sees the details of what we are facing. Sometimes it's easy, especially during an extended challenge, to feel forgotten or unseen. God sees. There is a weariness that comes from living through extended and extenuating circumstances. These weeks, months, or even years of suffering aren't lost with God – He remembers, He sees us, and He's in the "press" with us!
2. Additionally, there can come an accompanying level of disappointment as we are trying things or seeking solutions that don't work. The mental exhaustion of trying to figure out resolutions or searching for answers can be so draining.

When she heard about Jesus' healing power, she pushed through the crowd and came up from behind him and touched his prayer shawl. For she kept saying to herself, 'If only I could touch his clothes, I know I will be healed.'

3. Here is a key component to the turnaround we are seeking: What are we saying in the midst of our "press"? Is it answer-focused or is it "press"-focused? This is so heavy on my heart, especially in the season we are in right now. It is so easy to join in with all the negative voices, regurgitating negative outlooks and prognostications. Is this what we want to come to pass in our future? If we keep saying what we have, we'll keep having what we have. It's time for us to begin to agree with what God says about us and our future! Life and death are literally in the power of our tongues (Prov. 18:21)! This woman, despite of her disappointments and the length of her trial....kept saying! Let's make sure what we keep saying is what we actually want! It's time to shift the atmosphere to the victory of God! The darkness can never overcome the light (John 1:5) – but we have to stop speaking darkness! I'm reminded of something Joyce Meyer said, "Complain and remain." This is a biblically accurate saying. Complaining caused the Israelites to make a 40 year journey out of an eleven day trip. No thank you!

As soon as her hand touched him, her bleeding immediately stopped! She knew it, for she could feel her body instantly being healed of her disease! Jesus knew at once that someone had touched him, for he felt the power

that always surged around him had passed through him for someone to be healed. He turned and spoke to the crowd, saying, 'Who touched my clothes?' His disciples answered, 'What do you mean, who touched you? Look at this huge crowd—they're all pressing up against you.'

4. Other's around us may not be conscious of Jesus working in our lives – but He is! This is an important aspect of keeping yourself in faith. Even Jesus' disciples were taken up with the size of the crowd rather than the miracle in their midst. Let's not allow the "press" to capture our perspective. People of faith are always expecting God to break in and bring change. I want to be that kind of a person! Not filled with the noise of the "press," but focused on the power that is always available to bring change!

But Jesus' eyes swept across the crowd, looking for the one who had touched him for healing.

5. "Jesus' eyes swept across the crowd, looking for the one" – As alone as we can feel in the midst of our suffering or in the pressure of the "press" – we must know the Lord's eyes are looking over us and for us. We are not alone, abandoned or forgotten. God has promised that He is near to the broken-hearted. The Scriptures are clear in several places that brokenness draws

the power of God. Again, we must be aware, not of the "press" but of the Promise! (Ps. 34:18; 51:17; 147:3; Is. 61:1; Luke 4:18)

"...for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]" – Hebrews 13:5b AMP

When the woman who experienced this miracle realized what had happened to her, she came before him, trembling with fear, and threw herself down at his feet, saying, 'I was the one who touched you.' And she told him her story of what had just happened.

6. I love this so much – a tiny detail that reveals the heart of Jesus. Jesus has time for you – He stood in the midst of that jostling, bustling crowd and listened to her story. In our world, that is moving faster and faster, that is filled with noise and contrary voices....Jesus stops and patiently listens to our story. How we listen reveals how much we really care. This is profoundly evident in Jesus' life. As much as we can feel like an outcast – Jesus has time for us. As much as we can feel unheard – Jesus is listening.

Then Jesus said to her, 'Daughter, because you dared to believe, your faith has healed you. Go with peace in your heart, and be free from your suffering!'"
– Mark 5:25-34 The Passion Trans.

7. The answer to the "press": Dare to believe! This is absolutely critical for us in the midst of the "press" when everything is vying for our attention and our allegiance. Stay connected to the One Who has every answer and every solution – Jesus! The way we stay connected is by daring to believe! Things may look like there is no way they can change, we might be fighting off years of disappointment and discouragement but we must continue to agree with God and His Word and receive the help that Jesus so desires to give us!

I want you to be so encouraged by this story! Jesus sees you and He hears you! Change will come as we continue to agree and dare to believe what God promises in His Word! The atmosphere is ripe for change and for God's power to be revealed!

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Quotes: "Difficulties and obstacles are God's challenges to faith. When hindrances confront us in the path of duty, we are to recognize them as vessels for faith to fill with the fullness and all-sufficiency of Jesus."

– A.B. Simpson

"We need a quickening of faith; faith in the power of the God of Pentecost to convict and convert three thousand in a day. Faith, not in a process of culture by which we hope to train children into a state of salvation, but faith in the mighty God who can quicken a dead soul into life in a moment; faith in moral and spiritual revolution rather than evolution."

– A.C. Dixon

"Let God be true but every man a liar' is the language of true faith."

– A.W. Tozer

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Where's WILD?: Mavis will be ministering:

Tuesday, September 15th – Saturday, September 21st – Foundations Theological Institute, Course: Church History I @ Life Connections Ministries, 920 6th Ave. STE 102, Leavenworth, KS. Please call to register or for more information! Registration closes in August.

Sunday, Sept 21 @ 10:30 a.m. – @ Life Connections Ministries, 920 6th Ave. STE 102, Leavenworth, KS.

WILD Ministry Online Presence: During these unique times we are continuing to do our best to stay connected and encourage one another! Join us for #Days of Hope on our social media outlet, now also on YouTube! We are using all available technology and tools to release strength into others as we continue to press forward and rebuild during this season! #StrongerTogether2020!! We want to fill our hearts and minds with what God says and the hope that we have in Him!!! Please check out our website www.wildministries.net and our social media outlets for encouragement! We have several messages available for free on Sound Cloud. Also, please subscribe to our YouTube channel for updated available ministry resources to keep you encouraged!

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New Product Releases:

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